

APPLICANT(S): DESHPANDE, Nikhil et al.
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-28 have been rejected.

Claims 7, 17 and 24 have been voluntarily amended to correct typographical errors and for clarification only. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claim, nor are they being made for reasons of patentability.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Woodward et al (US 2004/0203685). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the reason that follows. The declaration of prior invention submitted herewith as Appendix A and the exhibits attached to the declaration establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the filing date of Woodward et al, i.e. November 26, 2002, which is the effective date of Woodward et al under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

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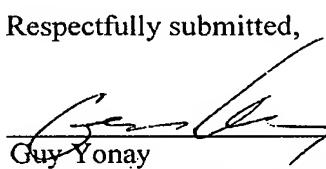
Therefore, Woodward et al cannot be cited against the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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